

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00382 200636Z
ACTION NEA-10

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R 171328Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 753
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONGEN DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS JIDDA 0382

FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, SA
SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN

REF: STATE 10244 (NOTAL)

BACKGROUND: REFTEL REQUESTED INFO ON POSSIBLE VISA REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING U.S. BUSINESSMEN SINCE WORK VISA HOLDER HAD PROBLEM GETTING VISAS FOR WIFE AND CHILDREN. FOLLOWING ATTEMPTS CLARIFY.

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED JACQUE JEANBART OF ROLACO COMPANY IN JIDDA SINCE PAUL JEANBART OUT OF COUNTRY. JEANBART STATE THAT ROLACO WAS SIMPLY FOLLOWING SAG INSTRUCTIONS TO DELAY ARRIVAL OF FAMILY UNTIL PRINCIPAL, IN THIS CASE MR. JORDAN, WAS IN COUNTRY. WORK VISA SUFFICES FOR MR. JORDAN BUT APPLICATION AND VISA ISSUANCE FOR FAMILY MUST BE JUSTIFIED BY HIS PRESENCE IN COUNTRY. JEANBART STATED HE WOULD CONTACT SUTHERLAND IN RIYADH (TEL 63468) FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION. INCIDENTALLY, TEL NOS. PROVIDED REFTEL ARE JIDDA NUMBERS.

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2. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT IN BELIEVING THAT SAUDI ARE TIGHTENING VISA ISSUANCE AND PROCEDURES. AL RIYADH, A DAILY NEWSPAPER REPORTED ON PAGE 1 THE FOLLOWING IN THE JANUARY 12, 1978 ISSUE.

QUOTE RIYADH -"AL RIYADH" DAILY HAS LEARNED THAT ALL

EXISTING AND NEW COMPANIES AND ESTABLISHMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO NEW RECRUITMENT REGULATIONS. A FILE WITH CERTAIN NUMBER WILL BE OPENED FOR EACH COMPANY, AND ALL FORMER FILES SHALL BE DISREGARDED. A NUMBER OF COMPANIES WHICH HAVE MISUSED THE VISAS GRANTED TO THEM WILL BE PUT ON THE BLACK LIST . COMPANIES WHICH EMPLOY LABOURERS WHO LEAVE THE SERVICE OF THEIR ORIGINAL EMPLOYER WILL ALSO BE PUT ON THIS LIST. PENALTIES WILL ALSO BE IMPOSED ON COMPANIES WITH MORE LABOURERS THAN THEY REALLY REQUIRE.

DR. IBRAHIM AL AWAJI, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, HAS EXPLAINED TO "AL RIYADH" DAILY THE OBJECTS OF THESE NEW RECRUITMENT REGULATIONS WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON THE 12TH OF THE CURRENT MONTH. HE SAID THAT THESE REGULATIONS MAKE RECRUITMENT SUBJECT TO THE PRIMARY, NOT SECONDARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE KINGDOM.

DR. ALAWAJI WENT ON TO SAY THAT NO ONE WOULD ENTER THE KINGDOM EXCEPT THOSE IN RESPECT OF WHO THERE WAS AN ACTUAL NEED. HE ADDED THAT THE OBJECT WAS MEET THE KINGDOM'S REQUIREMENTS TO NON-SAUDI MANPOWER IN AN ORGANISED AND PRECISE MANNER AND WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE POSSIBILITIES AND CAPACITY OF THE COUNTRY.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR SAID THAT FACILITATING THE ENTRY OF WIVES AND CHILDREN WOULD BE ACCORDED ONLY TO THOSE PEOPLE WITH SUCH EXPERTISE AND SPECIALISATIONS AS WERE NEEDED BY THE KINGDOM. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT NOT EVERY PERSON UNDER A CONTRACT HERE COULD CLAIM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHT TO BRING HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN. UNQUOTE

3. FYI:

CONOFF SPOKE WITH AL-AWAJI ON TELEPHONE 1/17/78 AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION HE RESPONDED THAT NEW PROCEDURES WOULD ONLY EFFECT "LOW LABORERS" IN THAT CASE, EMBASSY HOPES THAT SAUDI VISA OFFICIALS WILL NOT MISINTERPRET INTENT OF MIN. OF INTERIOR.

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